

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing data to an electronic device, comprising the steps of:

reading a random access memory to determine a location of said data;

reading a nonvolatile reprogrammable memory, if said data is located in said

5 nonvolatile reprogrammable memory;

reading a read only memory, if said data is not located in said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory; and

providing said data to said electronic device;

wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory contains updated data

10 corresponding to fixed data contained in said read only memory, said data thus provided to said electronic device being most recent data.

2. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said random access memory is nonvolatile.

3. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory contains the respective locations of said fixed data and said corresponding updated data.

4. A method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said random access memory is volatile, said method further comprising the steps of:

reading said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory to determine said respective locations; and

5 updating said random access memory with said respective locations.

5. A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

displaying at least one of said fixed data and said updated data so as to allow said at least one of said fixed data and said updated data thus displayed to be modified; and

storing the thus modified data in said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory as

5 updated data.

6. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory is selected from the group consisting of:

a flash memory; and

an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory.

7. A method for providing data to an electronic device, comprising the steps of:

reading a random access memory to select a desired version of said data from among a plurality of versions of said data stored in a nonvolatile reprogrammable

5 memory and a read only memory;

reading said desired version from said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory or said read only memory in accordance with the selection; and

providing said desired version to said electronic device.

8. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said random access memory is nonvolatile.

9. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory contains respective locations of said plurality of versions.

10. A method as recited in Claim 9, wherein said random access memory is volatile, said method further comprising the steps of:

reading said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory to determine said respective locations of said plurality of versions;

5 updating said random access memory with said respective locations of said plurality of versions.

11. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory contains an indication of said desired version from among said plurality of versions.

12. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory is selected from the group consisting of:

a flash memory; and
an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory.

13. A method for storing a software program in a memory module,
comprising the steps of:

creating a read only memory containing a first set of software modules;

storing in a nonvolatile reprogrammable memory a second set of software

5 modules, at least one module in said second set corresponding to a module in said first
set;

storing in a random access memory location information corresponding to said
modules in said first and second sets;

10 storing in said random access memory a sequence of execution of selected ones
of said modules in said first and second sets.

14. A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said at least one module in said
second set is an updated version of the corresponding module in said first set, said at
least one module in said second set correcting an error in said corresponding module in
said first set.

15. A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said random access memory is
nonvolatile.

16. A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said random access memory is
volatile, said method further comprising the step of storing said sequence of execution in
said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory.

17. A method as recited in Claim 16, further comprising the step of
initializing said random access memory by copying said sequence of execution from said
nonvolatile reprogrammable memory to said random access memory.

18. A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said nonvolatile
reprogrammable memory is selected from the group consisting of:

a flash memory; and

an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory.

19. A memory module, comprising:

a read only memory for storing fixed data;

a nonvolatile reprogrammable memory for storing updated data corresponding to said fixed data;

5 a random access memory for storing location data corresponding to said updated data; and

a controller for controlling access to said memory module by use of said location data, said controller adapted to provide said updated data if said updated data is available, and to provide said fixed data if said updated data is not available.

20. A memory module as recited in Claim 19, wherein said random access memory is nonvolatile.

21. A memory module as recited in Claim 19, wherein said random access memory is volatile, said controller adapted to initialize said random access memory with said location data of said updated data stored in said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory.

22. A memory module as recited in Claim 19, wherein said fixed data and said updated data are adapted to be displayed on a display associated with said memory module.

23. A memory module as recited in Claim 22, wherein at least one of said fixed data and said updated data thus displayed may be modified via a data entry device associated with said memory module, the thus modified data being stored in said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory as updated data.

24. A method as recited in Claim 19, wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory is selected from the group consisting of:

a flash memory, and

an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory.

25. A memory module, comprising:

a read only memory;

a nonvolatile reprogrammable memory;

a random access memory for storing location data corresponding to a desired

5 version of data from among a plurality of versions of said data stored in said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory and said read only memory; and

a controller for controlling access to said memory module by use of said location data, said controller adapted to provide said desired version from said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory or said read only memory.

26. A memory module as recited in Claim 25, wherein said random access memory is nonvolatile.

27. A memory module as recited in Claim 25, wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory contains respective locations of said plurality of versions.

28. A memory module as recited in Claim 27, wherein said random access memory is volatile, said controller adapted to initialize said random access memory with said respective locations of said plurality of versions stored in said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory.

29. A memory module as recited in Claim 25, wherein said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory is selected from the group consisting of:

a flash memory; and

an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory.

30. A memory module, comprising:

a first memory subsystem, including:

a mask read only memory for storing fixed data;

a random access memory for storing a location of said fixed data; and

a first microprocessor for controlling access to said memory module;

a second memory subsystem, including:

a nonvolatile reprogrammable memory for storing updated data, wherein

a location of said updated data is stored in said random access memory; and
a second microprocessor for controlling a flow of said updated data to and
10 from said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory;

wherein said first microprocessor is adapted to read said random access memory
to determine a location of a desired one of said fixed and updated data, said first
microprocessor being adapted to communicate with said second microprocessor to
receive said updated data therefrom if the desired data is said updated data and to read
15 said mask read only memory if said desired data is said fixed data.

31. A memory module as recited in Claim 30, wherein at least one of said
updated data corresponds to one of said fixed data, said updated data being an updated
version of said fixed data.

32. A memory module as recited in Claim 30, wherein said fixed and updated
data are adapted to be displayed on a display associated with said memory module.

33. A memory module as recited in Claim 32, wherein at least one of said
fixed and updated data thus displayed may be modified via a data entry device associated
with said memory module, the thus modified data being stored in said nonvolatile
reprogrammable memory by said second microprocessor.

34. A memory module as recited in Claim 33, wherein said data entry device
is selected from the group consisting of:

a keypad; and
a keyboard.

35. A memory module as recited in Claim 30, wherein said nonvolatile
reprogrammable memory is selected from the group consisting of:

a flash memory; and
an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory.

36. A communication system, comprising:
a base subsystem, including:

a nonvolatile reprogrammable memory for storing updated data;
a base microprocessor for controlling a flow of said updated data to and
5 from said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory;

a communication subsystem, including:

a mask read only memory for storing fixed data;

a random access memory for storing locations of said fixed and updated
data;

10 a communications microprocessor for processing said fixed and updated
data;

a display for displaying at least one of said fixed and updated data;

a data entry device for modifying said at least one of said fixed and
updated data thus displayed; and

15 a data link for transporting said updated data between said communication
subsystem and said base subsystem;

wherein said communications microprocessor is adapted to read said random
access memory to determine a location of a desired one of said fixed and updated data,
said communications microprocessor being adapted to communicate with said base
20 microprocessor via said data link to receive said updated data if the desired data is said
updated data and to read said mask read only memory if said desired data is said fixed
data.

37. A communication system as recited in Claim 36, wherein said base
subsystem further comprises a second data link for communicating with a
communications service provider.

38. A communication system as recited in Claim 37, wherein said
communications service provider is adapted to communicate with said base
microprocessor via said second data link to provide said updated data to said nonvolatile
reprogrammable memory.

39. A wireless telephone, comprising:

a base unit, including:

a nonvolatile reprogrammable memory for storing updated data;

5 a base microprocessor for controlling a flow of said updated data to and
from said nonvolatile reprogrammable memory;

a wireless module for communicating with a wireless base station;

a cordless handset, including:

a mask read only memory for storing fixed data;

10 a random access memory for storing locations of said fixed and updated
data;

a communications microprocessor for processing said fixed and updated
data;

a cordless module for communicating with a corresponding cordless
module of said base unit;

15 wherein said communications microprocessor is adapted to read said random
access memory to determine a location of a desired one of said fixed and updated data,
said communications microprocessor being adapted to communicate with said base
microprocessor via said cordless module to receive said updated data if the desired data
is said updated data and to read said mask read only memory if said desired data is said
20 fixed data.

40. A wireless telephone as recited in Claim 39, wherein a portion of said
fixed or updated data corresponds to a calling feature not yet implemented by a service
provider associated with said wireless telephone, said random access memory containing
a sequence of execution that omits said portion.

41. A wireless telephone as recited in Claim 40, wherein said portion of said
fixed or updated data is included in said sequence once said calling feature is
implemented by said service provider.